



A TRILOGY OF HEALING

AS THE NATION commemorated the 10th anniversary of 9/11 last month, distinguished photojournalist and author Alexandra Villard de Borchgrave finished her third book of inspirational poetry, completing what is now a trilogy set that has been in progress since Sept. 11, 2001. Ten years ago on that night, de Borchgrave prayed for a way to bring even an ounce of comfort and healing to those who had suffered the loss of their families and loved ones. Searching within, she—although never having written poetry before—was compelled to pen earnest verses about love, hope, and courage.

What results is this trilogy that continues to bring solace to families in need, yet what is perhaps an even greater contribution is the organization de Borchgrave founded after seeing the positive effects of these poems: the Light of Healing Hope Foundation, a nonprofit that provides encouraging books, including de Borchgrave's poetry, to hospitals to comfort patients and their families.



of compassion and inner calm." The first book, *Healing Light: Thirty Messages of Love, Hope, and Courage*, was published four years after the attacks and presents the inspirational

In the words of former secretary general of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the de Borchgrave's trilogy is a "remarkable collection of poems which represent an oasis

poetry with Indian Mughal art paintings. This book was sent as a gift to all of the survivors' families with the help of former chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, John C. Whitehead.

"I thought Alexandra's beautiful little book with its inspiring words and lovely images might bring comfort and healing to the grieving families of the Sept. 11 victims," he said. Encouraged by this, de Borchgrave then penned the second, *Heavenly Order: Twenty-Five Meditations of Wisdom and Harmony*.

Indeed, as Julian Raby, the director of Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery rightfully points out, de Borchgrave's poems serve not only as catharsis, but they also communicate hope in a time of need.

What's even more encouraging and hopeful, though, is that the rights, titles, and interests to the books have been graciously given to the Light of Healing Hope Foundation to provide support for the foundation's efforts in helping the lost find hope. ♦

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HOPE

Fall from fortune is without pity's touch
In the cold, devastating break of day;
The loss is such as to tear all feeling
From a soul bereft of safety's kind way.

Yet hope may be found in the heart's own strength,
Still stalwart and true on its lonely perch;
Persevere though gales of grief may mount,
As daring may open new paths to search.

Climb upward the steadfast boughs of courage,
To seek the sun's promise of splendid feats;
Let patience slay the clouds of doubt and fear
And win the starry goal hope's light completes.

BELOVED SPIRIT

PATHWAYS TO LOVE, GRACE, AND MERCY



ALEXANDRA VILLARD DE BORCHGRAVE

Clockwise from top: a page from *Beloved Spirit*; Ten years later, the National 9/11 Memorial opened to the public on Sept. 12; The cover of one of the books in the trilogy. Opposite: the Twin Towers in 2001; a portrait of the author, Alexandra Villard de Borchgrave.

